

some lessons," she said when she went home. "They always called me 'Molly Can't,' but now they say I have lost the last letter. I want to be 'Molly Can' all my life."

And the next time the cousins were all together Molly could play school and sew and draw and do as many things as the other children. "I'm so glad I lost that 't' I don't know what to do," she said when they called her "Molly Can." "I'm never going to try to find it, for I just love to have lessons and to make pretty things for my dolls."—Hilda Richmond, in Boys and Girls.

### LITTLE JAMIE, THE SAILOR BOY.

There lived in a Scotch village a little boy, Jamie by name, who set his heart on being a sailor. His mother loved him dearly, and the thought of giving him up grieved her exceedingly, but she finally consented. As the boy left home, she said to him: "Wherever you are, Jamie, whether on sea or land, never forget to acknowledge your God. Promise me that you will kneel down every night and morning, and say your prayers, no matter whether the sailors laugh at you or not."

"Mother, I promise you I will," said Jamie; and soon he was on a ship bound for India.

They had a good captain; and, as some of the sailors were religious men, no one laughed at the boy when he knelt down to pray.

But on the return voyage, some of the sailors having run away, their places were supplied by others, one of whom proved to be a very bad fellow. When he saw little Jamie kneeling down to say his prayers he went up to him, and, giving him a sound box on the ear, said in a decided tone, "None of that here, sir!"

Another seaman, who saw this, although he swore sometimes, was indignant that the child should be so cruelly treated, and told the bully to come up on deck and he would give him a thrashing. The challenge was accepted, and the well-deserved beating was duly bestowed. Both then returned to the cabin, and the swearing man said: "Now, Jamie, say your prayers, and, if he dares to touch you, I will give him another dressing."

The next night it came into the little boy's mind that it was quite unnecessary for him to create such a disturbance in the ship, when it could easily be avoided if he would only say his prayers in his hammock, so that nobody would observe it. But the moment that the friendly sailor saw Jamie get into the hammock without first kneeling down to pray, he hurried to the spot, and, dragging him out by the neck, he said: "Kneel down at once, sir! Do you think I am going to fight for you, and you not say your prayers, you young rascal?"

During the whole voyage back to London the sailor watched over the boy as if he had been his father, and every night saw that he knelt down and said his prayers. Jamie was industrious, and during his spare time he studied his books. He learned all about ropes and rigging, and, when he became old enough, about taking latitude and longitude.

Several years ago the largest steamer ever built, called the Great Eastern, was launched on the ocean, and carried the famous cable across the Atlantic. A

very reliable, experienced captain was chosen for this important undertaking, and who should it be but little Jamie? When the Great Eastern returned to England after this successful voyage Queen Victoria bestowed upon him the honour of knighthood, and the world now knows him as Sir James Anderson.

### NAMING THE SHIP.

"A long time ago, when I was a little boy," began Grandfather Alden, "there used to be shipyards, where vessels were built, very near my father's house. And one year there was a ship built there and named Robin. Now you little people can't guess why she was named for a bird."

Doris, who was not quite five, owned at once that she could not guess. Indeed, the thought to herself that it was very silly to try when grandfather knew and would surely tell her; but Robert was two years older, and was full of guesses.

"He named her Robin so she could fly through the water," he ventured.

"That would have been a very good reason, but it isn't the right one," responded grandfather, smilingly. "I will tell you the story. While the ship was being built, a bird began to build her nest well up toward the bow. The men worked round her nest, hammered and planked, but she did not mind. When children came down into the shipyard the carpenters would tell them about this nest, and I remember being lifted up to see four little eggs in it. Then there came a day when the eggs hatched, and there were four little robins, and in a few weeks away flew the mother and her little family.

"That very week another bird built a nest over on the starboard side, and reared four more young ones. The owner of the ship was so interested that he hung up the planking till the last one was hatched out. Then when the last small bird came the vessel was finished, and was named Robin."

"What became of the ship?" questioned Robert.

"She sailed off across the seas," replied grandfather, "and I have heard was always a fortunate vessel, as she ought to be, because she was built by a good man, who respected the rights even of a family of birds."

"How did the mother robin know about the ship?" asked Doris.

"Oh, I expect a little bird told her," replied grandfather, laughingly.—Alice T. Curtis in Youth's Companion.

### BIBLE MOST POPULAR BOOK.

The Bible is still much more in demand than any other book. The Oxford Press, the "Sunday at Home" states, turns out 20,000 Bibles in a week. More than 40,000 sheets of gold are used in lettering the volumes, and 100,000 skins go into Oxford Bible covers each year. The British and Foreign Bible Society prints the Bible in 400 languages. During the first year of America's rule in the Philippines, 10,700 Bibles were distributed there. Contrary to expectations, since the Boxer insurrection in China, the issue of Bibles for China last year was 428,000 copies. The fact is, the Bible today is the most popular book in the world, and more copies are sold than of any other hundred books combined.—Westminster Gazette.